POR 3500  

Luso-Brazilian Culture

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Prerequisites: POR 3202 (Acc Portuguese I) – POR 3233 (Acc Portuguese II)  
or POR 1130 (Portuguese I) – POR 1131 (Portuguese II)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The wide range of Portuguese speaking countries spread in practically all continents, 
arises the interest of students in the classroom, who want to understand and learn about the 
Lusophone Countries and their cultural relationship.

Portuguese ranks fifth among the world’s languages in number of native speakers (close 
to 250 million), most widely spoken in the Southern Hemisphere, and the third most spoken in 
the Western world. Brazil is the largest country in South America, and the largest national 
economy in Latin America. The Brazilian economy is the world’s seventh largest one, aiming at 
being the fifth by 2014. This falls very well into the purpose of FIU’s Global Learning for Global 
Citizenship Quality Enhancement Plan: understanding the intercultural connection of the 
Lusophone Countries will “provide the students with educational opportunities to achieve 
knowledge, skills …to understand relationships and connections …” viewing the world from 
multiple perspectives. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, has 
recently stated in his speech called “International Engagement Through Education” (May 26, 
2010), that there are two important trends that “inform our drive to transform education in 
America – international competition and international collaboration”, and continues by 
emphasizing the importance of international and foreign language education for American 
students, especially in high education, saying that the “international education and advanced 
foreign proficiency is vital to our nation’s capacity to compete, collaborate, and exert smart 
power”.

This is exactly what this course entails. By taking this course, students are expected to 
understand that language exists as an instrument of cohesion among the populations, as a political 
and economic statement in a national and transnational context. Standing out among the 
Lusophone Countries, we will be studying Brazil and its relationship with the other Portuguese-
speaking countries.

This course is designed for Portuguese majors and minors, and students of the Portuguese 
Language and Brazilian Culture Studies Certificate. As pre-requisite courses, students need to 
have taken POR I (POR 3202 or 1130) and II (POR 3233 or POR 1131).

MAJOR TOPICS:

The program for this course has been selected based on the cultural and historical 
relationship between Portugal and Brazil and the Portuguese speaking countries throughout the 
world. We will examine the origin of this relationship studying Portugal, and the Portuguese 
language, and the differences among the Portuguese variants.

The course will also focus on a view of the History of Brazil since the discovery, and 
will analyze sociological issues of colonial Brazil which helps in understanding modern Brazil.
As the conclusion for the course, and to give to the course a multi-perspective analysis, we will examine Brazilian Culture by viewing and discussing literature, arts, music, and cinema in Brazil, where we can see reflected the previously points studied in class.

CLASS FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

The regular class is based on PowerPoint presentations, films and videos that will generate discussions about the importance of the language and culture being studied, and will portray the long range of the language in the world. Discussions, debates, and global learning activities are aspects to follow. One important feature throughout the course are oral presentations by students. Homework is based on research preparation for discussion and for written papers. Students will be graded by their participation in class, out-of-class activities, oral presentations, and two exams.

In order to add to the students’ knowledge and culturally and linguistically better understand the universe where the Portuguese language dwells, a lecture on Portugal will be offered to the students by a guest who is a native speaker from Portugal, as well as on Brazil by Brazilian entrepreneurs, Brazilian diplomats, who will interact with students in Q&A sessions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

(1) Global Perspective: Students will be able to analyze the various scenarios where the Portuguese language is spoken as well as the multiple cultural perspectives of the correspondent countries.

(2) Global Awareness: Students will be able to analyze the interconnections among historical events, political regimes, and linguistic changes that have led to the creation of different varieties of Portuguese around the world.

(3) Global Engagement: Students will be able to demonstrate an openness (and an ability to convince others to be open) to the cultural significance of language varieties.

GRADING SYSTEM

Two exams       60%
Oral Presentations 10%
Class Participation and Attendance  15%
Written Homework     15%

Texts:

All texts, PowerPoint presentations, and films will be available to the students.

Reference Material:

Films:

- Important moments of the social and historical context in Brazil in the 20’s, 30’s and 40’s.

- The history of independence from Portugal.

- Military dictatorship in Brazil

- The 50’s and 60’s in Brazil. The construction of Brasília, the new capital of Brazil.

WEEK TO WEEK SYLLABUS

WEEK 1
Introductions, Syllabus presentation

Brief Overview
- What is “Lusofonia”?
- The Portuguese Language: an overview
  - Where is Portuguese spoken?
    - The status of the Portuguese Language
    - The status of the Portuguese-speaking countries in the world: economies, health, education, and infra-structure
- The Luso-Brazilian Peoples: an overview
  - When and where it all began:
    - Pre-Roman Iberian Peninsula
    - The Roman Occupation: Roman Lusitania and Gallaecia

WEEK 2
The Luso-Brazilian Peoples: an overview
- Germanic Occupation
- The Moorish Rule and the Reconquista
- The Affirmation of Portugal

The Portuguese Language:
- From Pre-Roman Portuguese to Galician Portuguese

**WEEK 3**

The Portuguese Language
- Archaic Portuguese

The Portuguese Expansion
- In Africa
- In Asia

The Discovery of Brazil

The Varieties of the Portuguese Language:
- In Europe
- In Africa
- In Asia
- In Brazil

**WEEK 4**

The History of Brazil
- Portuguese settlement in Brazil
- The Indigenous Peoples of Brazil
- Colonial Brazil
  - Social and Political Structure
  - Slavery
  - The Church
  - Imperial Reorganization (1750-1808)
  - Independence

**WEEK 5**

The History of Brazil
- The Brazilian Empire
  - Dom Pedro I
  - Dom Pedro II
- The Republic
  - Canudos
  - Economy of the Republic
- The Vargas Era

**WEEK 6**

The History of Brazil
- The Second Republic
- The Military Dictatorship (1964-1985)
- Redemocratization (transition to Tancredo Neves)
- From Tancredo Neves to José Inácio Lula da Silva

**WEEK 7**

Historical Panorama of Brazilian Art and Culture
The Baroque Period
The Romantic Period
The Naturalistic Period
The Modernist Period

WEEK 8  (Mid-Term Test)

Students presentations on the regional contrasts in Brazil (5 regions)
  o Colonization (migration)
  o Economy
  o Climate

WEEK 9

The Music and Dance of Brazil
  • Classical composers
  • Samba
  • Bossa Nova
  • Folk Celebrations, Folk Music, and Folk Dance
    o Carnaval (samba, frevo, congada, Boi-de-Mamão)
    o Iemanjá (candomblé)
    o Festas Juninas
    o Cavalhadas

WEEK 10

Lusophone Countries and their Relationships
  • Cultural Relations between Brazil and Portugal
    o The Language Academies
    o The Departments of Culture and Education
    o Other cultural institutions
  • Diplomatic Relations
    o Departments of State
    o Consular Services
    o Diplomatic Institutes

WEEK 11

Lusophone Countries and their Relationships
  • Brazil and Portugal
    o Economy
    o Trading
  • Multinational Companies and their role in the Brazil-Portugal Relationship
  • The role of Brazil’s Economy in the Lusophone World
  • Economy and Politics in the Lusophone Countries of Africa

WEEK 12

The role of the Lusophone Countries in the 21st century
  • The state of Education
  • Leading Fields of Research
    o Ethanol
The Genome Project
- Agriculture
- Medical Research

WEEK 13

- Business
  - Brazilian mega-mergers (InBev/Amheuser-Busch, Burger King)
- The World Cup 2014
- The Olympics 2016

WEEK 14: FINAL EXAM
ADDITIONAL REFERENCES (all available at FIU library)


